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Security Council

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Letter dated 21 December 2001 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

You will find below a message from Mr. Hubert Védrine, Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Quote:

"The French Government announced on 12 December 2001 that France was willing, on the basis of a mandate decided by the United Nations Security Council, to participate in the International Security Force provided for in the agreement signed in Bonn on 5 December 2001 by the Afghan delegations meeting under the aegis of the United Nations (see S/2001/1154).

France therefore worked energetically to bring about the adoption by the Security Council, on 20 December 2001, of resolution 1386 (2001), authorizing, as envisaged in annex I of the Bonn Agreement, the establishment for six months of an international security assistance force, whose mission is to assist the interim Afghan authority in the maintenance of security for Kabul and its surrounding areas, so as to ensure that the interim Afghan authority and United Nations personnel have a secure environment in which to work.

France is willing to participate in this international force, for the same period of time as that envisaged by the United Kingdom in Mr. Jack Straw's letter to you dated 19 December 2001, which has been circulated as a document of the Security Council (S/2001/1217, annex).

For this purpose, France intends to deploy special units immediately available to help provide security for individuals and protection for the premises of the interim Afghan administration in Kabul.

In addition to contributing to the International Security Assistance Force, France is willing to help train Afghan demining teams. It could also participate, under conditions to be determined together with its partners, particularly its European partners, in training Afghan security and armed forces in the future, should this be desired.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hubert Védrine"

End of quote

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Lévitte**
Permanent Representative